

The Picture Gown is Latest in Fashion



CHINCHILLA WRAP AND MUFF

BLUE CREPE DE CHINE
TEA-GOWN

BLUE SATIN TEA GOWN

MORE and more attention is paid to dress in these days, and consequently the individual and distinctive note is more noticeable than when all women followed blindly any law of fashion that was given out. Fashion's dictates are obeyed, to be sure, but there is no style brought before the public that does not have to receive most careful attention before it is approved or condemned by the majority, while the minority take the style, as it were, tentatively and then give to it the distinctive or individual note that marks the smartly gowned woman. This season there are several rather different problems to be solved—there are three or four very marked styles, and so marked and distinctive are they that in order to have them satisfactorily carried out it is generally necessary to follow closely their lines and detail. The Empire gowns are now accepted by every one, and young and old, stout and slender alike, have fallen victim to the craze. The fashion at its best is charming, most becoming and effective; at its worst—and, alas, that is what as a rule is seen—the fashion makes the wearer a most impossible caricature. To suggest the lines of the figure without sharply defining them is an art that requires most skilled rendering, and unless an amateur be a genius at dress-making she would better avoid the pitfalls that await her when she starts out to compass a "real Empire gown."

Picturesque effects are extremely fashionable, and when well handled are extremely becoming also, but nothing is more fatal than, in the average woman, to be told she is picturesque and should gown herself accordingly. The word picturesque covers a multitude of sins and incidentally is responsible for many against good taste. The shabbiest of frocks, badly made and draped, not fitted, and large hats perched at right angles to the heads on which they are placed, are often termed picturesque simply because the lines bear some faint resemblance to some picture of the picturesque robe that is effective is simply the conventionalized rendering of artistic lines and effects modified in accordance with the prevailing fashion of the day and into becoming effects. A gown or hat is not becoming simply because it is picturesque; the contrary, it is often unbecoming in consequence.

On the other hand, too stanch following of the cut-and-dried rules of the conventional fashions of the moment is never satisfactory, for then every particle of individuality is lost, and there is nothing distinctive, and the wearer of the gown, no matter what price the gown may have cost, looks precisely like any other woman who has chosen the same model, so that it is not wise to entirely eliminate the picturesque and individual touch. At the moment the picturesque enters largely into modern dress; but, as has been said, under a most conventionalized rendering. An evening gown in pale blue or white satin, that is on the picturesque order and yet is distinctly smart, looks like an old painting in its charmingly graceful lines. The skirt is pleated at the sides or may be pleated at the back, is not so long as the skirts of most of the modern evening gowns, and is very full. The waist is draped rather than fitted, and suggests, rather than defines, the bust, although the tendency to the high bustled effect is to be noticed. The sleeves are elbow length and extremely graceful, softened by ruffles of lace, but otherwise without trimming. There is, in fact, no trimming on the gown anywhere, the beautiful quality of the material and the sheen

on it being considered quite sufficient ornamentation.

It is indeed interesting to note that there is still in fascinating variety. Broad shoulders and small hips are the best adapted to the artistically picturesque styles, for the material can be draped in long soft folds that fall in unbroken lines. Cloaks and wraps, for instance, that fit only across the shoulders and have the lines unmarred by staccato lines of binding or embroidery invariably challenge attention, although it must be admitted that the yoke of heavy embroidery and bands of the same embroidery down the front are marked and distinctive in effect. The tea gown affords us a most excellent opportunity for the long lines that show to the best advantage in the costliest of fabrics. Velvet, satin, chiffon and lace require a revision of popular feeling against the over-elaboration that has been such a marked feature of the fashions lately. There are certainly many extremely smart and effective gowns this winter that are remarkable for the beauty and perfection of their trimmings, and the way in which elaborate trimmings are arranged adds greatly to the beauty of the costume, but at the same time the absolutely plain models are most striking and noticeable for the beauty of the material and the lines. Shaded chiffons for tea gowns are now fashionable, and are really wonderful sheen that catches light and no trimming, for the colors show off the beauty of the material. Shaded satins for tea gowns and wraps are in great demand. On account of this very love for color effects shaded satins are not as satisfactory, for they have such depth of color-

ing in their own weaves that they do not look any better when shaded than when plain. A mauve or an ivory velvet or satin will have a sheen and depth that artists admire and that in its simple elegance is most attractive. These are the materials and fashions that are delightfully picturesque and stay in fashion much longer than the more ordinary models. An artistic satin evening gown, for instance, such as looks best in a portrait, will, if not too extreme, be in fashion for several seasons, while the more ordinary style made in accordance with the prevailing fashion of the moment will look old-fashioned the second winter.

These same artistic and picturesque fashions require a great deal of material to be

absurd to advocate any one style as advisable because it may be fashionable for more than one season, but if a gown proves especially becoming the most extravagant woman likes to keep it over till the next season rather than to attempt an entirely different model that may not turn out well. Consequently these satin gowns in the modern colors and of the exquisite weaves that are now to be had claim first attention in the choice of winter outfits, and old pictures are consulted, as well as the latest fashion plates, by the modistes who furnish for their favored customers the very newest styles.

These same artistic and picturesque fashions require a great deal of material to be well carried out. The width around the foot of the skirt measures many yards, while there is no possibility of economy of material if a satisfactory effect is to be gained, satisfactory in so far that the gown be becoming, which it never can be if there is even a hint of economy as to the number of yards required. In truth those men and women who stand at the head of their profession as dressmakers and tailors have apparently a supreme contempt for such a small detail as the quantity of material that must be used, and cut and slash with almost criminal recklessness the most costly fabrics in order to secure the draped effects that they require. "The end justifies the means" is, however, the consensus of

opinion of the women who order the most expensive clothes and who recognize that modern dress is but an exponent of high art, and as such commands its price. There is, however, some satisfaction in paying high prices for satisfactory results. Beautiful materials and becoming costumes do not seem so wickedly extravagant as do the expensive clothes which are expensive apparently for the mere caprice of the moment that calls for what is conspicuous and eccentric rather than for what is intrinsically beautiful.

For the benefit of the great majority of women to whom, alas! the cost of clothes is a serious consideration, it must needs be recorded that while, as has been said, the most costly of costly clothes are fashionable, it is perfectly possible in this age of the world for a woman of moderate means to be fashionably and smartly gowned without entering into the realms of such luxury in dress. It is also quite possible to have clothes that look distinctive and effective, too, with a touch of the picturesque about them, for Dame Fashion has most kindly furnished this year an annual number of most possible models—possible in so far that they can be copied at comparatively small cost.

Beautiful materials command high prices. Expensive trimmings cannot be bought at small cost unless they are hopelessly out of date. Rare laces have always an intrinsic value. All these things must be realized before embarking on the troubled sea of the modern outfit, but there never has been known a time in the history of dress when effective materials and equally effective trimmings could be secured for so small an outlay, while the models provided to copy from are endless in variety.

If a woman be on the order known as picturesque it is comparatively an easy thing for her to have a decided note of originality in her dress, but she can also have a decided note of originality in her dress if she elects to choose the rather severe style and has both her street and house gowns fashioned after models of that type, and trusts to the perfection of the cut and fit of her gowns to command attention, or she may elect to carry out the very latest ideas and have her gowns elaborately trimmed and fashioned and her hats loaded

down with all kinds of ornamentation. Whichever style best suits the individual, that style should she choose and not depart therefrom, no matter how she may be urged to do so. The woman who looks her best in plain, simple clothes should never be tempted by the many plumed and eccentrically fashioned skirts and waists and hats of the moment to change the general outlines of the newest fashions, but must always stamp upon them the evidence of her own personality. The identical model of a gown can be so changed by trimmings and drapery that it cannot be recognized except in a vague and general way, and this is the method by which the individual, distinctive and picturesque note of modern fashion is emphasized.

Pony Skin Coats.

Pony skin coats in all styles and lengths bid fair to be more popular this winter than was the case even when they were first introduced some two years back. For the morning, or for driving or automobiling, when warmth is the first consideration, there is no better style of wrap to be had, and certainly this is about the cheapest kind of fur coat on the market.

Pony skins are rather out of vogue just now, and needless to state, the more expensive the quality of the skin the more attractive the coat, for the cheaper cloaks are made from the short, dark skins, while the better qualities have long, soft hair, and look much like the dyed or "sabled" squirrel. In fact, for a fur muff and hat for this style of coat the sabled squirrel is extremely pretty. An Eton or blouse jacket cannot be made from so heavy a fur, and really pony skin is not sufficiently handsome for anything but a long, generally useful wrap. As the exaggerated long coats most serviceable for the winter are now this pony skin jacket need not be more than a short three-quarter length.

The majority of the rough skin coats this winter are made of the sabled squirrel, which is by no means out of date. The Empire model is seen in even the cheapest style of fur coat, sometimes the yoke and each seam being bordered with a piping of brown leather. Leather trimming, however, is rather uncertain, as it attains and loses its popularity so suddenly always.

Striped and streaked pony coats are good to wear about the country where warmth only is desired, but they are certainly not pretty to look upon, although once in a while a streaked skin is seen that is rather smart. Young girls find these inexpensive coats most serviceable for their week ends out of town, for they save the handsome fur coats and are excellent for any kind of winter sport.

There are now made up many long fur coats that seem ridiculously cheap; these are made from all kinds of cheap pony skins and the majority will be found to wear splendidly and for rough wear look really smart. They are most of them quite long and are worn over simple gowns of cloth or serge.

Caracul is unquestionably the most popular of the medium-priced furs this winter and is seen made up in a variety of styles, as well as in the long, loose wraps. A short fur is scarcely practical, but it is fashionable nevertheless, and the long wrap can be worn over a short walking skirt. Instead of wearing a velvet jacket many now wear a fur coat which can be left in the carriage or slipped off before entering the reception room. The caracul is the foremost, several and gray, with a gown to match, makes an exquisite costume. Black, however, is more generally seen, while the white caracul for dress, wear, is particularly smart.

Partridge Pie.

Take the required number of birds, pound their livers in a mortar together with a fourth of a pound of fat salt pork and some shredded parsley or thyme. Line the rim of a baking dish with a rich pastry crust, place a part of the forcemeat in the bottom of the receptacle, lay in the partridges, trim the long wings and the feet, add the strained stock, cover with top crust and bake from two to three hours, according to the age of the birds. Before serving remove the bacon.

Charming Hand-Made Christmas Gifts Seen This Season.

KNITTING has been fashionable again for two or three years, and now crochet work, too, is coming to the front among the most popular of the revived handicrafts for women. Among those that at first glance seem old-fashioned, but which will in fact be among the most up-to-date of hand-made Christmas gifts, are crocheted bed jackets. They are really very pretty made in a ribbed design of alternating shells and plain bands. Such a jacket in white and pale blue wool had all the shells stitched with a tracery of blue silk, also a fashion of fifteen or twenty years back. The jacket was finished with a ruffle of the crocheted wool around the neck down the front and at the bottom of the sleeves, which were quite down to the wrists. This ruffle was in the plain crochet stitch, and was finished with a plain crocheted band, the shells not being used at all on the ruffle. The jacket is extremely warm and may be washed.

A most useful and comfortable Christmas gift which may be made by a skillful knitter for a woman friend is the motor scarf of Shetland wool now so popular. The scarf, made in thin wool and with an open mesh, give an impression of being light and airy, and there is nothing at all clumsy about them. Worn under the coat they may be crushed into a small space and do not interfere with the fit of the garment up around the shoulders. In fact, it is most surprising that such very open, light-looking scarfs should give so much warmth as these do. They are made very wide and long enough to hang well down past the

waist. They may be worn spread out wide, when they reach to the waist, or gathered up around the neck. In white they are particularly attractive.

An interesting gift for a man and one that would undoubtedly be appreciated by a college student, especially, an army man, a yachtsman, or any one connected with some particular organization in which colors are employed, is a cigar ash tray, made of linen, glass and metal. At present these may be bought ready made, but they have not so far been duplicated in machine-manufactured goods, so that they are pretty only at the most exclusive shops, and they are made of materials that are not easily obtained. The tray of gun metal, copper, brass or any other metal desired is selected of the proper shape, preferably rectangular. It should be deep enough to bear a false bottom of cardboard and glass. Cut the cardboard to fit the bottom exactly. Have a piece of glass cut in exactly the same size. The linen should be enough larger to cover the cardboard on both sides. In the very center embroder the monogram of the person for whom the tray is intended. If it is for a college man use appropriate colors, and the linen and the embroidery together should carry out the college scheme. Harvard, being all crimson, should simply have the monogram in very heavy silk of the same color, but raised sufficiently to show. Yale blue should be done in the same way. Columbia looks best with a white monogram on a pale blue ground. The red and blue of Pennsylvania and the yellow and black of Princeton are most effective. When the embroidery is done fold over the cardboard smoothly, sew the linen together on the under side, then place the glass over the cardboard and bind them together with a

narrow strip of linen put on smoothly with photographer's paste. You then take the tray to a small repairing jeweler and have him rivet the glass covered cardboard to the bottom with little clamps at the four sides. These are put through small holes in the bottom of the tray and fastened on the under side.

Another interesting gift for a man, which, however, is beyond the craftsmanship of any but the specially skilled, is a waste basket in an oval shape, not quite regular, but varied with scallops, a large one on each side and smaller ones supporting these central scallops on either side. The basket is covered smoothly with dark green, blue, brown or red leather, which is pasted on with shoe paste, but this leather has almost always been quite elaborately tooled in gilt.

For young men away from home, whether at college or elsewhere, there is nothing more popular than the old-fashioned housewife, or, as it was called during the civil war, the "diddy bag." These are also among the revivals, and the most fashionable shops are now showing them as something very rare indeed. In reality they are as old-fashioned as possible, but nothing more convenient for the purpose has yet been evolved. The most attractive of these "diddy bags," especially when meant for men, are made of leather. The leather should be soft bronze kid, soft tan gray, dark blue or very dark red kid being suitable. If not made of kid they should be made of quite heavy material, broadcloth, felt or wool tapestry being suitable. Linen and silk are not heavy and velvet seems

scarcely suitable for a man or boy. A strip of this heavy material about one-half a yard long and five inches wide is first lined with silk, chamois or some other suitable material and bound all around either with a narrow leather binding or one of silk, be buttoned, which is made of flannel, a pocket for black and white thread and for darning thread and a tape to hold scissors, are then sewed inside next to the silk. One end of the bag is straight and the other is pointed. Ribbons are attached to the pointed end, and the bag, after all its contents are packed, is rolled up with the pointed end out. The ribbons are tied around the bag. It is small enough to carry in the pocket; it is very complete and masculine looking, and every college boy who hasn't one is sure to be pleased with such a gift.

Bead photograph frames are really charming bits of handicraft which will make pleasant gifts for either men or women. These are more easily done on canvas than on a bead loom. They are in all the charming bead designs and in many shapes, square, rectangular, circular and shapes that are fanciful and elaborate. Forget-me-nots in blue beads on a crystal ground make a charming frame for the face of a woman friend when almost any man would appreciate. Rosebuds on a dark red ground, golden love knots on a pink opaque bead ground, etc., are all most charming frames. The frames must be first cut in large squares or rectangles of canvas and then stamped with the outline of the frame shape desired. After the bead work is all done the inner portion of the canvas is cut out and folded under to make the shape. Before mounting the beadwork on the

frame this should be interlined with felt or flannel.

A new sewing rack, very convenient for use by the amateur needlewoman, is made of white wood and covered with pale green screen, meant to stand on a low table. The screen has two wings, and inside these are two narrow strips of wood across each leaf of the screen. Rows of wooden spikes stand up from these strips of wood, the spikes are meant for spools. The spools of thread, silk, darning cotton, etc., slip down over the spikes, and the arrangement is a most convenient one. All of the woodwork which shows is painted white.

Below the spikes on each leaf are large pockets of chamois or denim for holding the work on which one is engaged at the time. These pockets may be of the same material with which the screen is covered, or may be flowered when the covering is plain or plain when it is striped.

Above the spikes on one side is a strip of material for holding scissors of various sizes, and on the other side is a strip to which is attached a needlebook, thimble pocket, tape measure pocket, etc. Blue and white chamois screens with plain blue pockets are pretty. Red screens have striped red and white chamois pockets, yellow and white striped screens have plain yellow pockets. A very pretty screen may be made of apple chamois with red apples on a green and white ground, with green pockets.

Sometimes the screen and pockets are all of the same color and the pockets are bound with a different color ribbon or braid. A new and attractive screen can be made in this way of yellow bound with white or blue bound with red, etc.